



MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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Memorandum

To: Governing Board
From: Ross Goldstein
Date: May 26, 2023
Subject: 2023 Legislative Session - Final Update

During the recently concluded legislative session, the following bills that have an impact on the MLDS Center were introduced.

1. [SB 127 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student FAFSA Data - Reporting Requirement](#) - Last year, a new mandatory report was created that requires local education agencies (LEAs) to report to the MLDS Center, the number of students who completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the number of students who did not complete and submit the FAFSA, and the number of students who completed the FAFSA by the deadline for eligibility for State financial aid. The MLDS Center was then responsible for compiling that information and reporting it to the education oversight committees in the General Assembly.

At the June 2022 Governing Board meeting, staff noted that this reporting arrangement resulted in the Center collecting data directly from LEAs (which is not the way K-12 data are generally collected). The Board approved a proposed amendment to the requirement, which was taken up by Senator Ellis (the sponsor of the original bill creating this requirement). SB 127 requires the MLDS Center to provide the report without requiring data from the LEAs. Instead, the bill directs the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to provide the MLDS with access to student FAFSA data in the federal Student Aid Internet Gateway and data collected by MHEC's Office of Student Financial Aid. With the FAFSA data from MHEC and the existing K-12 student data from MSDE, the Center can complete the report, and provide more in-depth analysis. For example, in addition to reporting FAFSA completion rates by county, the Center will also be able to report FAFSA completion by race, ethnicity, gender and socio-economic status.

Status: Passed and approved by the Governor (see [Chapter 688](#), Laws of 2023)

2. [HB 320 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Definition of Student Data - Alteration](#) - This bill alters the definition of "student data" to include student disability data by specific disability category. Part of the definition of "student data" is that student data does not include medical and health records. Accordingly, this bill establishes the General Assembly's intent that student disability data, including disability category, is permissible and would not be considered a

prohibited medical or health record. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) collects student disability data.

Status: Passed and approved by the Governor (see [Chapter 778](#), Laws of 2023)

3. [HB 888 - Education - Prekindergarten Alternative Teacher Preparation Program - Authorization and Reporting](#) - This bill made a change to the mandatory annual reporting requirement established by the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future* that requires the MLDS Center to report on the progress made in increasing the preparation and diversity of teacher candidates and new teachers in the State. One component of the report requires information on trends in the number of teacher candidates of color hired by local school systems, disaggregated by higher education institutions and alternative teacher preparation programs. This bill would have required the report to add pre kindergarten alternative teacher preparation programs as an additional disaggregation for this trend analysis.

Status: Failed

4. [SB 938 - Primary and Secondary education - School Safety and Student Well-Being - Examination of Policies](#) - This bill required the State Department of Education (MSDE) to provide an analysis of the effect that State and local policies in place from 2018 through 2023 had on school safety and student well-being. The bill directed MSDE to use school data on bullying, harassment or intimidation instances; disciplinary actions taken against students; school-based arrests of students; behavioral threat assessments conducted in schools; student drug overdoses and whether they were fatal; the initiation of suicide prevention protocols for students and instances of student suicide; and weapons recovered on school grounds. MSDE was also directed to complete the report in consultation with the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center. It should be noted that the data to be analyzed for this report were not longitudinal, multi-agency data that require the use of the MLDS. Accordingly, the MLDS Center's input and consultation would have been limited.

Status: Failed

5. [SB 131/HB 124 - Mandated Reports - Revisions](#) - This bill repeals, alters, reschedules, and consolidates mandatory reports. The bill impacts two MLDS Center reporting requirements.
 - a. The Annual Dual Enrollment Report, which has been produced and submitted for the past 10 years, was eliminated. The drafters' note stated that the reporting requirement was repealed as unnecessary and noted that the dual enrollment dashboards were sufficient.
 - b. The bill changes and adds to the Center's annual reporting requirement on higher education participation by youth who experienced out-of-home placement. The new report expands the population of interest to include Foster Care Youth instead of youth

that experienced out-of-home placement¹ and Homeless Youth. The annual report must include the following information (the underlined are new requirements):

- i. Disaggregation by county, age, race, and ethnicity;
- ii. The rate of enrollment in institutions of higher education
- iii. Type of institution;
- iv. Type of financial support provided to foster care recipients and homeless youth, including the number that received a tuition exemption during the previous academic year and the number that received a tuition exemption at any point during their enrollment in college but not in the previous academic year; and
- v. Graduation rate.

Status: Passed and approved by the Governor (see [Chapter 48](#), Laws of 2023)

Action

Informational.

¹ Foster Care Youth is defined by Ed. Art, § 15-106.1(2)(i), Annotated Code of Maryland. The definition is similar to how the Center defined youth that experienced out-of-home placement in the annual report.